



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

MARCH/APRIL EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

April 1st, I along with Mr. Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, will submit to the City Council the proposed budget for the 2012 fiscal year.

As the City Council and I prepare to debate budget priorities I wanted to educate the residents and citizens about the revenues of the city. Our current operating budget is US\$3,311,503. We conservatively project a US\$3.4 million dollar revenue stream without increasing the real estate and personal property taxes. The revenue projection is a slight increase (.14%) over the current budget. The slight increase is mainly attributable to a down turn in the global economy. Historically, under normal economic times, our revenue projections would have been a 3.5 % or (\$105,000) increase over the current budget.

Outlined below is where the money comes from:

Revenue Source	FY12 Projected	Percent of Projected Revenue
Property Tax	\$2,255,834	65%
State-Shared	717,087	21%
Business License	13,550	0%
Permits	750	0%
Use of Money	22,000	1%
Charges for Services	371,891	11%
Miscellaneous	0%	0%
Other Financing	80,156	2%
Grant Total	\$3,461,268	100%

This year I have made Public Safety and Public Works priorities within my budget. We must continue to improve our efforts to bring better sanitation, security and safety to the residents, visitors and businesses of Seat Pleasant. Additionally, we must place emphasis on economic development activity. Our city is in dire need of economic activity. My budget calls for igniting the Economic Development department to spur economic activity to coincide with what the state is projecting by way of an upturn in the states business cycle. This in turn will allow the city to leverage its economic development

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(Mayor's Message con't.)

resources with the expansion in the State's economy. This ultimately will improve the City's tax base and increase employment opportunities in A City of Excellence. Many of our residents and citizens what better quality stores to patronize, they want a family style restaurant and other amenities befitting A City of Excellence.

However, I first would like you to review how much and where we receive our revenues. Remember we are a small government and our resources are very limited. Right now our Police and Public Works departments receive a little over 65% of the general fund revenues and that still isn't enough to keep pace with the rising costs on the demands of services you expect of your government.

As you prepare to participate in the public hearings on the budget in the next few weeks, I wanted you to get a since of the finances and their origins. We hope you will take the time to understand the revenues and be prepared to give testimony on how you believe your tax dollars should be spent. I look forward to hearing from our taxpayers as we engage you in the budgetary process. Working together we become closer to being A City of Excellence.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The following legislation passed in the month of March:
The City Council passed the following legislation:

Resolution R-11-10

Resolution for the purpose of approving Eastern Avenue Apartments Development Project to be financed either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland or through the Department's Community Development Administration.

Ordinance O-11-057

Ordinance for the purpose of amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget for the Council Contingency Revenue from Speed Camera's

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall
6301 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125



SUMMER JOB APPLICATIONS

FOR SEAT PLEASANT YOUTH AGES 15 - 17
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL
APRIL 15TH, 2011



A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN ELENORA SIMMS

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services has introduced an initiative to put fresh produce into the homes of Prince George's County children. Through *Mission Nutrition*, they are offering free produce between 4 - 6 p.m. at these locations. Bring your own bags. One distribution per household.

April 18 Temple Hills - Iverson Mall (In front of Burlington Coat Factory)
3737 Branch Avenue
Hillcrest Heights, Maryland 20748

April 19 *Brandywine - Gwynn Park High School (Dyson Road Parking Lot)
13800 Brandywine Road
Brandywine, Maryland 20613

May 16 Temple Hills - Iverson Mall (In front of Burlington Coat Factory)
3737 Branch Avenue
Hillcrest Heights, Maryland 20748

May 17 *Brandywine - Gwynn Park High School (Dyson Road Parking Lot)
13800 Brandywine Road
Brandywine, Maryland 20613

June 20 Hyattsville - District Offices PGCDSS
6505 Belcrest Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

June 21 *Brandywine - Gwynn Park High School (Dyson Road Parking Lot)
13800 Brandywine Road
Brandywine, Maryland 20613

* Brandywine location hours are from 4 - 7 p.m. monthly

A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON

The following information from the Consumer Guide to Health Insurance by the Maryland Insurance Administration addresses Federal Changes to Health Care. Look for additional information in upcoming issues.

How Do the Federal Changes to Health Care Impact Me?

The recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires health carriers to provide you with more benefits. Some of these benefits were already required to be offered in Maryland; some are new. Some apply to your current health insurance; others apply only if you buy new health insurance or renew your policy after a certain date. The most noteworthy immediate changes are:

- Your child may stay on your health insurance policy or HMO contract until age 26 even if your child doesn't live with you or is not financially dependent on you, whether or not he or she is married. Talk to your health insurer or HMO or employee benefits manager to see when this change takes effect for you.
- In the individual market, insurers and HMO's can no longer sell new health policies:
 - With an annual limit below \$750,00 per year for essential benefits like hospitalization, ambulatory patient services, emergency services or prescription drugs, or
 - That exclude or limit coverage for children under the age of 19 because of a pre-existing medical condition.

Because these changes are incremental improvements, the new benefits will not result in any noticeable premium increases in your current health insurance policy; your premium may increase for other reasons (i.e. age or health care cost increases). Additionally, changes will occur between now and 2014. For more information regarding these changes, go to www.healthcare.gov.



COVERAGE INSURANCE CARRIERS MUST PROVIDE FOR SEWER BACKUP LOSSES

**BY ROBERT L. ASHTON
CITY TREASURER**

During the 2008 legislative session, Maryland's General Assembly passed a law requiring homeowner insurers to offer coverage for losses caused by water and sewer backups. In the past, insurers offered this coverage only if the homeowner requested it. On October 1, 2008, all homeowner insurers that sell policies in Maryland were required to offer this coverage to policyholders in writing by certified mail within 7 days after the date the policy is initially placed or at time of renewal. It is important to know as Homeowners that sewer systems are not closed systems and are subject to vandalism, mishandling by users, and unavoidable occurrences which may cause a backup despite the most rigorous maintenance program. It is imperative that the homeowner be aware that local governments are not automatically liable for these losses. All homeowners are strongly encouraged to purchase this coverage for water and sewer backups, which by law must now be offered by your insurer. You can also call your insurer to get this coverage today rather than waiting for renewal time. According to Local Governmental Insurance Trust .The cost for this coverage is usually very reasonable. But even more important, it can help you too quickly control the loss and return to normal activities.

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Throughout the years more and more citizens of Seat Pleasant have recognized their individual responsibility to take an active role in crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals. In conjunction, the mission of the Seat Pleasant Police Department has been and continues to be, to enhance the quality of life through the creation of a safe and secure environment for all citizens of Seat Pleasant. This type of relationship fosters mutual respect, understanding, cooperation, and a fundamental desire to develop problem solving strategies to address public safety concerns. Due to this matter, the Seat Pleasant Police Department will be establishing a complaint phone line whereby citizens of the city can call 24 hrs a day to address problems concerning criminal activity in their neighborhoods.

In developing this plan of action our goal will be not only to reduce crime and criminal victimization, improve the safety and security of the community, enhance the quality of life for the residents and establish a collaborative and trusting partnership, but will also further enable the Seat Pleasant Police Department in reaching their goal of reducing crime and developing a partnership which actively involves the community in an identification and problem solving strategy that will reduce the incidence of crime in their neighborhoods. Watch out for further details on this matter in the immediate future!

Submitted by CSAFE Lead Coordinator- Mary Davis

A WARM WEATHER TIP FROM CPAC

I love warm weather and so do, unfortunately, criminals. Spring brings warmer weather, longer days, and an increase in burglaries. Many people are so glad the winter is over and they take advantage of the sunny weather to do outdoor projects. For criminals and predators, this is a great time of the year. They are always on the lookout for easy targets. One important thing you can do, whether you're in Seat Pleasant or anywhere else, is to always lock your doors, roll up the windows when you leave your car, and don't

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(warm weather tip con't.)

leave anything inside. Car thieves regularly patrol parking lots and try door handles to see if they will open. They are hoping for an unlocked vehicle that they can get into quickly and take anything that was left inside. Someone may see a bag in your car break into it and steal the bag, and later realize it was trash you were going to throw away. They really don't care that they've destroyed your property. CPAC wants you to enjoy the beautiful weather and also keep safe.

If you have anything you want us to discuss with Seat Pleasant's public safety partners, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Enjoy the spring!

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASES NEW EQUIPMENT

As reported last month, the Public Works Department purchased equipment to assist with City maintenance. Pictured below are the vehicles that were purchased.



Staff member Darren Reese stands beside the Kubota LA 724-2011 tractor. This tractor can be used for all types of landscaping, hauling trash and debris and salting City streets.



Staff member Harold McCullough stands beside the Ford F-350-2010 Pickup Truck. This truck can be used to haul heavy equipment as well as snow removal.



Public Works Foreman stands beside the Ford F-550 2011 Dump Trucks.. This truck can be used for plowing snow, hauling trash and debris and salting street



Staff member James Gordon stands with the Elgin Pelli-can 2011 Street sweeper which is used to sweep City streets, vacuuming street dust and cleaning debris from the curbs.

SEAT PLEASANT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HEALTH PARTNERSHIP WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT KIDNEY DISEASE

More than 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease (CKD). It is often called the “silent disease” because many people do not know they have it until it has reached later stages and they have serious problems. We always want to find out if we have a disease at the earliest stage possible so we can prevent further damage. Most diseases are easier to treat (and more successfully treated) in their earlier stages.

Our kidneys are amazing, vital organs that we must have for good health. They get rid of waste and fluids from our bodies, help to regulate our sodium, potassium, phosphorus and calcium levels, remove any drugs or toxins that may be in our bodies, and release hormones that help control our blood pressure, keep our bones strong and make red blood cells. If we develop chronic kidney disease (CKD), our kidneys can no longer perform these functions well and eventually may not be able to perform them at all. The build-up of waste products in our blood can lead to high blood pressure, anemia, or weak bones. The risk of heart and blood vessel disease also increases. Often these problems develop slowly over time so symptoms may not be noticeable, which is why early detection and treatment is so important. If not treated, CKD can cause kidney failure, which requires dialysis or a kidney transplant.

According to the National Kidney Foundation, if you answer “yes” to any of the following questions, you may have chronic kidney disease:

- You have diabetes

- You have high blood pressure or heart disease

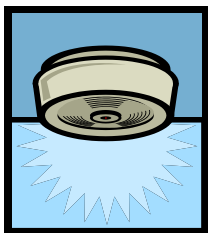
- You have a family history of chronic kidney disease

- You are 60 years of age or older

- Your race/ethnic background is African American, Hispanic or Asian or Pacific Islander

Symptoms of chronic kidney disease can include loss of energy; poor appetite; difficulty sleeping; dry, itchy skin; muscle cramping at night; swollen feet and ankles; puffiness around the eyes; especially in the morning; the need to urinate more often, especially at night; or unexpected weight loss or gain. If you have several of these symptoms you should probably ask your doctor for blood and urine tests that can determine how your kidneys are functioning. Submitted by Sharon M. Desmond, Ph.D. Health Partnership Co-Chairperson

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT



WHEN YOU CHANGED YOUR CLOCK, DID YOU CHANGE YOUR BATTERY? A smoke alarm is critical for the early detection of a fire in your home and could mean the difference between life and death. Fires can occur in a variety of ways and in any room of your home. But no matter where or how, having a smoke alarm is the first key step towards your family's safety. Every year in the United States, about 3,000 people lose their lives in residential fires. In a fire, smoke and deadly gases tend to spread farther and faster than heat. That's one reason why most fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not as a result of burns. A majority of fatal fires happen when families are asleep because occupants are unaware of the fire until there is not adequate time to escape. A smoke alarm stands guard around the clock and, when it first senses smoke, it sounds a shrill alarm. This often allows a family the precious but limited time it takes to escape. About two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are considered to be one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a

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(Fire Department con't.)

potentially deadly fire and could reduce the risk of dying from a fire in your home by almost half. Seat Pleasant is our home too and we want you to be just as safe as we are! If you need a smoke detector or need help installing a smoke detector don't hesitate to swing past or give us a call. We're located at 6305 Addison Rd Seat Pleasant MD 20743, or call us at 301-336-2331. Thanks for working with us as we make Seat Pleasant a fire safe community! for more information about fire safety visit www.firesafety.gov Submitted by Phil Martin Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company

SEAT PLEASANT DAY **IS COMING!**

Saturday, May 7, 2011
Opening Ceremony at 9:30 a.m.
with Parade following



Activities in the Park
12 noon until 5:00 p.m.

Fun, Food and Festivities
for
the whole family

If you are interested in volunteer-
ing, vending or
performing please call City Hall at
301-336-2600.

Applications for the Basketball
Tournament are also available at
City Hall.

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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FIRST CLASS
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STEP TO EXCELLENCE

Seat Pleasant Community Walking Group
KICK-OFF EVENT

DATE: SATURDAY MAY 14, 2011

TIME: 10:00AM

START: SEAT PLEASANT CITY HALL 6301 ADDISON RD

END: GOODWIN PARK-311 68TH PLACE

WHO: FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE!

ALL SPEEDS & EXPERIENCES WELCOME!

UNITE WITH THE COMMUNITY & IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH!

WEAR YOUR WALKING SHOES!

CHANCE TO WIN LOCAL BUSINESS GIFT CARDS!

*FRESH FRUIT AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED BY
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HEALTH PARTNERSHIP*

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
CITY HALL AT (301)336-2600 OR
COUNCILWOMAN ARETHA STEPHENSON AT
(240) 601-1037*



OTHER NEWS.....

Pepco is currently working on Addison Road and other streets to put in new lines underground. The work will continue into April so please exercise caution.

Thank you for your patience.

